

COUNCIL MINUTES	THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2026	6pm
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		Notes/Discussion/Decision
1	WELCOME, ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES:	Your Council members are: Steph Lowe, Sarah Jones, Ronnie Forbes, Peter Tosh, Eddie Thornton, Alan Hoar, Alex Burton, Dot Dahl, Tommy McQuade. Apologies: Ciorsti Baxter, ADG
2	CLUB BUSINESS	
2.1	Minutes & matters arising	13 th November Minutes - Proposed: Peter Seconded: Tommy Membership group to discuss idea of producing abridged version of the Annual Report and Accounts booklet for potential new members and as a thank you to sponsors
2.2	President's update – Steph Lowe	<p>Firstly, happy New Year to you all, I hope 2026 brings you all that you want it to.</p> <p>December, as expected was a busy time in the run up to Christmas, the Rotary Christmas Card Competition was a great success with a record entry, the senior winners turned the Christmas lights on and the junior winners rode with Santa in his sleigh during the Reindeer Parade, thanks to all the Rotarians that turned out to make the parade a great success. Thanks also to those members who assisted at the Winter Woods festival. The Rotary tree decoration at St. Conan's looked great, thanks to Alex B and Ronnie F for their artistic efforts! The Oban Lorn District Seniors (OLDS) Christmas lunch was an another success, as it has been for many years. We also had lovely Rotary lunch at the Royal with our partners and the festive celebrations culminated in the Rotary Carol concert at the Corran Halls, which was, again, really well attended and raised money for our charitable account in the process . Thanks to everyone involved in the organising of the event, and all those who took part. Special thanks to the Reverend George Cringles for his contribution and to the Reverend Alex MacCallum</p>

		<p>for stepping in to compere the event at short notice, in his inimitable style!</p> <p>Finally, thanks to all those Rotarians that gave up their time to make all the above festive events a success, remember, we are people of action!</p>																																				
2.3	Treasurer’s update – Ronnie Forbes	<p>Latest balances as at 31/12/26</p> <p>*Charities Account*</p> <p>Last report £20259.66</p> <p>Donations made:</p> <table><tr><td>Home start Lorn Xmas presents</td><td>300.00</td></tr><tr><td>Shelterbox/Storm Melissa</td><td>650.00</td></tr><tr><td>OLDS Xmas lunch</td><td>2394.80</td></tr><tr><td>MacQ bros/Palestine</td><td>220.00</td></tr></table> <p>Donations received</p> <table><tr><td>Charter dinner raffle</td><td>220.00</td></tr><tr><td>Carol concert</td><td>585.02</td></tr></table> <p>Expenses of charitable work;</p> <table><tr><td>Young photo prize</td><td>35.00</td></tr><tr><td>Carol concert hall booking</td><td>100.00</td></tr><tr><td>Carol concert order of service</td><td>106.00</td></tr></table> <p>Balance as at 31/12/25 : £17258.88</p> <p>Ring fenced</p> <table><tr><td>OLDS</td><td>£2419.89</td></tr><tr><td>Feis</td><td>£500.00</td></tr><tr><td>St Columba’s</td><td>£ 1470.00</td></tr><tr><td>Girl Guides</td><td>£500.00 – Council</td></tr></table> <p>agreed to remove this commitment</p> <p>Net available: £12,368.99</p> <p>*Club*</p> <p>Last report: £3873.11</p> <table><tr><td>Charter Dinner receipts</td><td>630.00</td></tr><tr><td>Wreath</td><td>42.90</td></tr><tr><td>Hotel charter dinner</td><td>1350.00</td></tr><tr><td>Bank charges</td><td>14.20</td></tr><tr><td>Annual gratuities hotel</td><td>600.00</td></tr></table>	Home start Lorn Xmas presents	300.00	Shelterbox/Storm Melissa	650.00	OLDS Xmas lunch	2394.80	MacQ bros/Palestine	220.00	Charter dinner raffle	220.00	Carol concert	585.02	Young photo prize	35.00	Carol concert hall booking	100.00	Carol concert order of service	106.00	OLDS	£2419.89	Feis	£500.00	St Columba’s	£ 1470.00	Girl Guides	£500.00 – Council	Charter Dinner receipts	630.00	Wreath	42.90	Hotel charter dinner	1350.00	Bank charges	14.20	Annual gratuities hotel	600.00
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		<p>Print Mhor ARA 182.40</p> <p>Balance as at 31/12/25 : £2313.61</p> <p>*Meals*</p> <p>Last report: £1449.22</p> <p>November meals - hotel 954.00 Bank charges 23.65</p> <p>December member receipts 1633.80</p> <p>Balance as at 31/12/25: £2105.37</p> <p>*Sport*</p> <p>Last balance reported £786.48</p> <p>From pickleballers 42.80 To Atlantis, court hire 42.80</p> <p>Balance as at 31/12/25 786.48</p> <p>Council noted the update and agreed year-on-year commitment to OLDS subject to discussion on other fund-raising.</p>
2.4	Secretary's update - Sarah Jones	<p>Article submitted to District News to promote International & Foundation Committee Concert in February.</p> <p>Voted on behalf of Club for candidates in two District elections. Both were successful.</p> <p>New calendar for 2026 circulated. All to please add events.</p> <p>New collection buckets purchased.</p>
3	FUNDING REQUESTS	
3.1	Marie Curie 40th Great Daffodil Appeal in 2026	Agreed to invite to speak at a lunch time meeting – request is for help from Rotarians with collecting.
3.2	Request to fund equipment for an NHS client with learning difficulties	Officers decided the request did not fall within Rotary remit
3.3	Girl Guides – residential trip costs towards transport	Application form not received. Remove financial commitment and discharge from agenda.

3.4	Taynuilt Pipe Band	Newly established band. Sent form for completion – not yet received.
4	CORRESPONDENCE	
4.1	Lochnell School	Thanks for donation
4.2	Summer Sensations 2025	Thanks for support
4.3	Idee einer internationalen Club-Partnerschaft	Proposed partnership with the Rotary Club Hückeswagen – Radevormwald. Peter is due to visit Oban again this year. The President will pick this up again in discussion with the International Committee on the commitment involved.
4.4	WithYou	Drugs and alcohol charity request for help in finding alternative premises in Oban. Agreed to invite to speak and suggest Sadie Hall as possible premises.
5	COMMITTEE UPDATES (full list for completeness)	
5.1	Membership - President Steph Lowe	Re-connecting with Cameron Harris? Douglas Small has indicated his intention not to renew his membership. Council agreed to invite Douglas and his wife to attend a future meeting to thank him for his Rotary service. Membership group agreed a meeting to make further progress on arranging approaches to potential members.
5.2	Community & Vocational – Ciorsti Baxter	Council noted the detailed planning update on holding a Classic Car Tour and approved further work with a view to holding it in March.
5.3	Foundation & International - Ken Oxland & David Finlayson	Confirmed that the International and Foundation committee of the Rotary Club of Oban are to hold a fundraising concert on 27th February at 7.00 pm in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban. Taking part will be Oban Strathspey and Reel Society, Mod winning Oban Gaelic Choir, Rotary Club of Oban Young Musicians, Leap Up School of Highland Dance Dancers, Lora MacLeod and the Oban Ukulele Band. Guess the Bear's Birthday will be part of the fundraising, every £1 ticket bought is actually worth £3.00 for the Rotary End Polio Now campaign thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation who will treble every pound raised. The winner will have the Rotary Polio Bear for life! Tickets are £10 for the event and will be available locally from the shop Alba, in Albany Street, Oban and on the door. Members can also register HERE for a ticket in advance.

		David to be asked to give an update on arrangements for tickets sales at Tuesday's meeting.
5.4	Sports & Social – Lachie Beaton	
5.5	Youth Services – Dot Dahl	<p>Young Environmentalist - re launch to schools and via social media</p> <p>Young Chef - discuss support for the local winner to hopefully participate in the next round - the West Area of District 1320 - in Kilmarnock in February.</p> <p>Council noted the update and support for 'our' young chef winner in the next stage.</p> <p>Disappointing that District had arranged the area competition at a time that made it difficult for travel from Oban – to be raised via our ADG.</p> <p>Council noted a meeting is to be held on 21st January with Lochaber Club and Outward Bound about the 2026 leadership course – to be reported and discussed with Council in due course.</p>
5.6	PR & Reputation – Alex Burton	<p>Since the last council meeting social media posts have been made for</p> <p>Oban Winter Festival opening, Winter Woods, a second announcement for the OLDS lunch, Charter Dinner, Christmas Cards Competition winners, Christmas Tree Festival at St. Conan's Kirk, Reindeer Parade, OLDS Lunch, invite to the Carol Concert, Young Photography competition winner, Young Chef apron and certificate presentation, and the Carol Concert. A small piece on the Carol Concert made it to the Oban times. Things have been quiet since the Carol Concert, but will pick back up again in this new year.</p> <p>In the last 30 days we have had 375 views on Instagram and 6 new followers. On Facebook views for the last 28 days were 30k and for the 28 days before that 115k. We have 165 total followers, an increase of 4%.</p> <p>Council thanked Alex for the report.</p>
5.7	Am-Am – Alan Hoar	Nothing to report
5.8	OLDS – David Mudie	President to meet OLDS sub-committee to discuss future plans - following decision that the Christmas lunch is now fully adopted as a Rotary event.

5.9	Club Service – Eddie Thornton	Nothing to report
5.10	Safeguarding	Council agreed to remind each Committee to consider safeguarding as part of their event planning. A decision is required on the appointment of a new Safeguarding Officer following Douglas’s resignation.
5.11	Inventory Controller – Iain MacKinnon	Peter, Iain and Sarah still to arrange golf club visit. Meanwhile, Council agreed to ask members for help in identifying where Club materials and equipment might be stored – and if individual members were in possession of any items. Aim is to produce a new inventory and decide on any new publicity materials etc. For example, Duck Race materials are now stored at the Girl Guides hut.
6	SPEAKERS UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew MacDougall Scottish Sea Farms – February 3rd - evening • Cara Bowden, CHAS, 10th March (lunch time) • Adventure Oban – possible speaker for suggested by Dot • District Environmental Lead – Ciorsti to approach to speak • See also agreed to invite WithYou and Marie Curie. Council thanked Peter for volunteering as new speakers co-ordinator and to ask members to help with speakers for the rest of the year.
7	DISTRICT UPDATE	To note results of recent votes. District Conference 13 – 15 March Noted Stirling Club Centenary Dinner on 10th April – members might wish to attend.
8	ATTENDANCE REPORT for weekly lunch/dinner	November 2025 , No of Meetings: 4, Attendance Rate: 68.8% Members with 100% Attendance over the month: Alex Burton, Walter Burton, Dot Dahl, Davie Finlayson, Alan Hoar, Steph Lowe, Ken Moncrieff, Eddie Thornton, Peter Tosh December 2025 , No of Meetings: 3, Attendance Rate: 61.9% Members with 100% Attendance over the month: Alex Burton, Walter Burton, Dot Dahl, Ronnie Forbes, Steph Lowe, Dave Mudie, Eddie Thornton
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	Jack had offered to speak at Tuesday’s meeting about a new cheaper hosting platform for the Club website. Possible Oban Rotary Santa Dash to be considered as a new event for 2026.
10	NEXT MEETING:	12th February 6pm – by video-link